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Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

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The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement

1. INTRODUCTION

Fulfilling its mission to "promote Education and Culture with Spirituality so that there is Food, Health and Work for everyone, to form the Ecumenical Citizen", the LGW - Legion of Good Will, institution with General Consultative Status at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, that proposes and accomplishes humanitarian and socio-educational programs for over 56 years, presents in this report the result of the six consultative preparatory Workshops for the ECOSOC High Level Segment 2006 carried out in the main capitals of Brazil and in the capital of Argentina, with the subject "Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development". The discussion of this subject is related to the Millennium Development Goals proposed by the United Nations. Representatives of the three sectors of the social structure (government, trade market and civil society) participated and the discussion resulted in a list of recommendations based on the vision of the sectors present, above all from the civil society, represented by hundreds of social organizations and community leaders. General recommendations were adopted by the workshop. In addition, three NGOs presented their own, specific recommendations to be included.

2. THE ACTION OF THE LGW — SOLIDARY SOCIETY NETWORK

Founded on January 1, 1950, the LGW has operating units spread all over the Brazilian territory, in South America (Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay), Europe (Portugal) and in the United States of America.

Invited by the UN/DESA Session of NGOs and considering its themes of the highest relevance for the sustainable development of the countries where it acts, the LGW has positioned itself, for the third consecutive year, as mobilizing and umbrella institution for other social entities, aiming at public sensitization and the articulation of a network formed by social organizations, that make possible the integration of different initiatives and thoughts. Besides the cooperative character, the LGW considers as the most important aspect of this proposal of network formation, the construction of a Culture of Peace and sustainable solidary development, based on the human, social and spiritual development of all those who make part of it.

By this, the Solidary Society Network already gathers 371 institutions, having as proposal the institutional strengthening of its members, sharing of good experiences and the reproduction and multiplication of successful social technologies. The name of the network was inspired in the thesis of the President of the LGW, José de Paiva Netto, entitled "Solidary Altruistic Ecumenical Society", where the writer, journalist and radio broadcaster presents for decades pillars of Good Will capable of constructing a society more equal, fraternal and in peace.

Supported by the affinity of its members with the human and social development, the network has resulted in partnerships, in the mobilization of the society and in models of public policies.

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3. TECHNICAL ASPECTS

a. Methodology

The execution process of the *Latin American Civil Society Meeting on Employment and Sustainable Development* and the creation of proposals that began in January 2006 fulfilled the following stages:

The formation of a LGW work group for the execution of workshops in 5 Brazilian capitals and in the capital of Argentina;
A debate to decide the format of the meetings and the results to be reached;
Local meetings to decide agendas (tasks, deadlines and the persons in charge);
Local meetings to evaluate the processes;
Local accomplishment of the Workshops;
Elaboration of the report - Consolidation of the information gathered in the meetings.

It fits here to register some aspects considered important for the attainment of the final result of this work, which are:

(a) the discussion forums were made up by representatives of the three sectors of the social structure, with emphasis in the organized civil society (NGOs) whose participation in formulating the proposals was fundamental for the vision of who acts directly with the communities in social and economic vulnerability situation;

(b) the moment of formulating the proposals was preceded by presentation of theme panels on employment and sustainable development, made up by speeches, pronounced by professionals of the three sectors, with well-known knowledge on the subject;

(c) the discussion for the creation of the proposals and suggestions began with a brief explanation of the subject by an invited facilitator, with recognized direct performance on the solution of the problems; and

(d) the recommendations gathered were results of the workshops in which the participants shared their experiences and opinions in a collective and democratic discussion.

b. Geographic representation

Seeking to approach geographic representation and plurality to the recommendations proposed, the LGW mobilized participants from all over Brazil and Argentina, carrying out substantial meetings in the main Brazilian metropolises and in Buenos Aires and gathered recommendations from other places through the application of questionnaires. In this manner, 371 organizations participated in the elaboration of these recommendations.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

In Latin America, the most spread out criteria to measure the needy and poverty levels takes the minimum wage as reference. Recent data divulged by the UNDP and the Brazilian Government disclose that Brazil has about 74 million people below the line of extreme poverty (42% of the population). The possibility to surpass this reality is linked with the capacity to get a decent job. The most critical situation is of the public with age between 15 and 24 years. The rate of youth unemployment is about the double of the national average. The necessities of socioeconomic development, however, need to be met with policies that contemplate the rational use of natural resources.

The recommendations that follow are divided in three sub-themes that were discussed in three workshops, considering the recent technological innovations in the fields of information and communication, new models of work relations and the increasingly participation in the socioeconomic development of the developing countries.

Workshop 1 – Alternatives for the creation of full and productive employment and decent work for all

- Stimulate the dissemination, adaptation and reproduction of successful experiences of work creation and income.
- Extend in quantity and quality the facilitating centers of insertion in the job market to work efficiently as intermediates between the employer and the candidates for the job.
- Improve the quality of education and professional qualification of the country, stimulating individual enterprising and a system of association regime, mainly for the young candidate for the first job.
- Amplify the reach of the extension courses and technical schools that assure professional qualification that guarantee keeping oneself employed.
- Create mechanisms of vocational orientation and stimulate the permanence of the student in the programs of professional qualification.
- Link to the job training courses the obligation of partnerships that make possible the effective inclusion of those who finish the courses into the job market.
- Create policies of job creation and income for some excluded social segments as: minors, people with special needs, head-of-the-family women, elderly people, ethnically discriminated populations, etc.
- Adopt stimulating measures of productive activities as: less bureaucracy in the constitution of companies and the access to credit lines; reform of working and tax laws, extending the programs of universalizing electricity and communication and digital inclusion, incentive to the application of the concepts of Local Productive Arrangements, Clusters, Associations, etc.
- Identify potentialities, vocations, strong and weak points for the articulation of strategic actions that facilitate the availability of offers for the demands of work creation and income.
- Include the spiritual development in socio-educational, environmental and economical projects, aiming at the rescue of unrestrictedly ecumenical values and the total formation of the individual, as, for example, the educational proposal of the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy, carried out in the schools of the LGW.

Workshop 2 – The democratization of the access to information technologies and the roles of education and communication

- Stimulate the implementation of public policies that democratize the technology of communication and information, with mechanisms of control to guarantee effective and efficient results;

- Make possible the free access to the communication and information technologies in the outskirts of the cities, mainly through the Internet with the optimization of telecenters;
- Inclusion of the subject *Communication and Information Technology* in the public and private schools curriculum;
- Involve the media in the promotion of campaigns of mass communication, aiming at mass involvement;
- Mobilize the civil society to demand the use of the *Fundo Universalização do Serviço de Telecomunicações – FUST* [Universal Service of Telecommunication Fund] to be used in programs of digital inclusion;
- Make the government and the technological industry aware of the necessity of reduction in the equipment costs;
- Implant computer terminals in the cities with professional qualification courses, facilitating the access to information and the qualification of the communities;
- Carry out long-distance education courses for all ages;
- Stimulate the reduction of the cost of the cable channels and create a system of inspection of open TV channels;
- Spread knowledge and democratize the information throughout electronic medias of great reach, in order to make the citizen aware of his/her role in society, taking as an example what is carried out by the Super Good Will Communication Network, formed by the Super Good Will Radio Network (dozens of broadcasting stations in Brazil and transmission by the Internet for the entire world) and *Rede Mundial de Televisão* — RMTV (educative channel).

Workshop 3

Making partnerships possible for the sustainable social development:

- Stimulate the union between the three sectors in the promotion of Sustainable Development, creating efficient channels of communication among NGOs, with the government and with private companies;
- Sensitize the Legislative to include Third Sector in the legislation of the Public Private Partnerships - PPP's;
- Enable the NGOs to generate, elaborate, administrate and evaluate social projects with big institutions, as LGW, CDI, Sebrae, amongst others;
- Strengthen the performance of inter and intra-sectors network, as the example of the Solidary Society Network, for the sharing of abilities, good practices, net actions, exchange of experiences, democratization and socialization of knowledge;
- Stimulate the active participation of civil society in the Municipal, State and Federal councils, Town-council, Assemblies, with the objective of sensitizing the Public Power in the implementation of efficient Policies;
- Prepare the communities to propose and to influence the creation of public policies directed to the socioeconomic development and to pursue the reduction of abusive taxes, aiming at making possible new job positions;
- Facilitate the NGOs' access to the social, private and public investments;

- Stimulate the use of local workmanship in the construction of Public works (public housings and other things, mainly day-care centers), with creation of jobs in the communities (role of the community associations: identify, administer and supervise the works);
- Stimulate the participation of universities in projects aimed at the professional development of civil society;
- Work the diffusion and dissemination of the network concept in the governmental institutions in order to carry out integrated actions with the NGOs.

5. Conclusion

In his article "It is urgent to reeducate", the President of the LGW, José de Paiva Netto, defends the transformation of the individual as the starting point for the solution of all social challenges. "Take care of the Spirit, reform the Human Being. And everything will transform itself", he summarizes. All the socio-educational action undertaken by the LGW and throughout the Solidary Society Network is concerned about the total development of the Human Being, in the simultaneous formation of "mind and heart". The most correct way is still the area of Education with Ecumenical Spirituality.